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Resident alerts town to costly situation

By PAULETTE HADDIX
Post-Tribune Correspondent

GRIFFITH — A south-side resident has alerted town officials to a situation at the sanitary landfill which was reportedly costing the town thousands of dollars in unnecessary sewage treatment costs.

The problem, according to Precinct 7 Democratic Committeeman George Milne, was that the cover to a sanitary-sewer manhole had been off for two months and was allowing surface water from a 150-acre watershed to drain into the town's sanitary-sewer system.

He estimated that every inch of rain results in 27,000 gallons of water to the acre. Thousands of dollars in taxpayers' money was being wasted by the water entering the sanitary-sewer system because it was in turn being treated by the city of Hammond for a charge of 90 cents per 1,000 gallons, Milne explained.

Director of Public Works Glen Reyome said he was unaware of the problem until it was brought

to his attention by Milne, and the situation has since been corrected.

Workers were unable to find the original manhole cover, Reyome said, so he had a new cover put back in place so surface water from adjacent swamp land wouldn't drain into the sanitary-sewer system.

Milne, of 411 S. Griffith Blvd., said he had been investigating the missing manhole cover situation for some time and had known it wasn't in place for two months.

Reyome told Milne he could have been even more helpful to the town if he had informed town officials of the manhole cover's absence immediately.

A sanitary-sewer line runs to the landfill, Reyome explained, because the Environmental Protection Agency has instructed the Department of Public Works to pump surface water from the landfill into the sanitary sewer via enclosed pipe.

Other surface water in the area is supposed to travel through natural drainage to a ditch that runs under the Erie Railroad tracks.